

*DOUG HARDY - Montana Electric*

## TESTIMONY

### HB 301

#### Before the House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee

January 24, 2007

The nation's push for energy independence will require increased dependence on electricity, the one energy source that is more than 99 percent a domestic product. The nation will need fossil fuel and renewable energy 24/7 moving forward.

Ratepayers who ultimately pay for the electricity need public policy to encourage the most affordable sources of renewable energy, whether that source is from large-scale wind farms or distributed generation. Our experience is that the large-scale projects produce significantly lower cost generation than the distributed small facilities this bill would promote. We therefore feel the bill in its present state would encourage poor public policy.